

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle ~~Vehicle~~ having a front part, a rear part and a longitudinal axis ~~(1a)~~, and comprising:

- a passenger compartment (8) provided with seats (7) located at the rear of the passenger compartment;

- a vehicle structure ~~(72)~~, with respect to which at least two rigid parts ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ of a retractable roof are free to move, respectively a first, front part ~~(3, 4)~~ and a second, rear part ~~(5)~~, said rigid roof parts being free to move between an extended position reached at the end of a forwards movement, and in which said parts cover the passenger compartment and are substantially in line one behind the other, and a folded position reached at the end of a rearwards movement and in which said parts are offset from each other and retracted into a roof storage space ~~(9)~~ located behind the seats ~~(7)~~;

- and an add-on modular roof assembly ~~(1)~~ added as a single part onto the vehicle structure, said assembly comprising:

- \* the retractable roof and its ~~moving~~ rigid parts ~~(3), (4), (5)~~;

- \* a retractable roof support body ~~(10)~~ connected to the vehicle structure ~~(72)~~;

- and a roof parts movement mechanism ~~(12, 13, 40, 50)~~ connected to said roof rigid parts and supported on the support body ~~(10)~~ for moving the roof rigid parts with respect to the roof opening, between their extended and folded positions, once the modular roof assembly is positioned inside the vehicle, wherein: ~~characterized in that:~~

- the modular roof assembly (1) is positioned inside the vehicle using guiding housing and locking elements (76, 78, 73, 75) provided partly on the vehicle structure (72) and partly on the support frame (10) such that the support frame (10) is positioned facing the guiding housing elements of the vehicle structure, and

- the vehicle structure (72) locally defines a roof panel (79) provided with said opening (77) closeable by means of the retractable roof, said vehicle structure being adapted to house a sealed sliding movement of the roof parts along two fixed, lateral members (81, 83) disposed on both lateral sides along the roof opening.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle~~ The vehicle according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the roof parts (3, 4, 5) occupy a substantially vertical position, adjacent to each other, when in their folded position.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle~~ The vehicle according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that one of the guiding housing and locking elements provided on the vehicle structure (72) and the support body of the modular roof assembly comprises two cradles (75) aligned perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (1a) of the vehicle, and the other of said guiding housing and locking elements and said support body comprises two trunnions (73) adapted to fit into the cradles, to enable pivoting of said modular roof assembly (1) with respect to the vehicle structure (72).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle~~ The vehicle according to claim 3 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

- the seats (7) of the vehicle are installed on the structure so that they can be tilted forwards, and

- the vehicle further includes actuation means (100, 101, 103) of actuating the modular roof assembly, said actuation means comprising a control (100) to tilt the modular roof assembly (1) between said folded position of the roof parts, when they are arranged adjacent to each other,

substantially vertically behind the seats, and a position tilted forwards in the passenger compartment, when said seats are already tilted forwards;

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that:~~ The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein:

- the support body (10, 10a) and the movement mechanism (12, 13, 40, 50) for the roof parts define two blocks located laterally on each side of the longitudinal axis (1a) of the vehicle to clear an available space between said blocks;
- the roof storage area (9) space communicates with a vehicle trunk in which luggage is loaded;
- and the vehicle further comprises stop means (90) to stop the modular roof assembly in a substantially horizontal position of the roof parts, thus superposed with respect to each other, the roof parts then clearing an additional available storage space underneath.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that:~~ The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein:

- the roof comprises three rigid parts (3, 4, 5) among which a third rigid part (3) is arranged in front of the first front part (4), in the extended position;
- the second roof rear part (5) comprises a rear window (5a), and
- the movement mechanism for these roof parts comprises pivoting arms (40), (50) which are, at one end, hinged with respect to the support body (10), at two different locations, and are connected, at an other end, for one of said pivoting arms to the second roof rear part (5) and, for the other, to the first roof front part (4), said other pivoting arm being connected to slides (12, 13, 14) through a relative sliding movement between the first, front part (4) and the third part (3) of the roof, between the fixed lateral members (81, 83).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that a~~ The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein a housing casing (11) is fixed to

the modular roof assembly (1) and houses said rigid roof parts (3, 4, 5) when they reach their said folded position in which they are arranged substantially vertically.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle according to claim 7 characterized in that:~~ The vehicle according to claim 7 wherein:

- the vehicle is provided with a rear shelf (92) moving between a substantially horizontal position when said rigid roof parts (3), (4), (5) are in their folded position, adjacent to each other, and a substantially vertical position, tilted forwards, during extension or folding of said roof rigid parts;

- said rear shelf (92) substantially closes ~~the~~ an upper part of the casing when it is in its substantially horizontal position and the roof parts are in the folded position inside said housing casing (11).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Vehicle according to claim 7 or 8 characterized in that~~ The vehicle according to claim 7 wherein at the rear of the vehicle, when the roof rigid parts are in the folded position, the housing casing (11) comprises a movable panel (11e) installed free to pivot at its a lower part about a fixed part (11a) connected and fixed to the support body (10) of the modular roof assembly.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for fitting equipment on a vehicle ~~according to one of the previous claims,~~ the method comprising the following steps of:

~~supply of the~~ supplying a vehicle structure having a back and a top, and (72) comprising ~~lateral edges of a passenger compartment, and,~~ a trunk and a windshield frame, between which ~~the lateral members (81, 83) extend;~~ an opening closeable by means of a retractable roof is defined;

~~supply of the~~ supplying a modular roof assembly; adapted to be added as a single part onto the vehicle structure, said assembly comprising;

the retractable roof which comprises at least a first, rigid roof part and a second, rigid roof part, said rigid roof parts being free to move between an extended position in which they cover the passenger compartment and a folded position in which they are retracted into a roof storage space delimited in the trunk, and;

a retractable roof support body adapted to be locked to the vehicle structure;

- ~~insertion of~~ inserting the modular roof assembly inside the vehicle structure from at least one of through the rear or and the top of the vehicle, thereof, through the said opening (77) for the retractable roof; that is located in the roof panel (79) between the two lateral members 81, 83;

- positioning and locking ~~of the~~ said retractable roof support body (10) facing the guiding housing and locking elements (76, 78, 73, 75) provided on the vehicle structure (72);

- then ~~installation of the~~ installing in the passenger compartment vehicle internal trim and seats (7).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Method for fitting equipment~~ The method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that wherein,~~ when the modular roof assembly (4) is inserted inside the vehicle, the roof rigid parts (3, 4, 5) are in their folded position.

12. (New) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of providing the vehicle structure with roof lateral members extending, between said trunk and said windshield frame, on both lateral sides of said opening for the roof.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of adapting the vehicle structure to house a sliding movement of the roof rigid parts along said roof lateral members, between said extended position and folded position.

14. (New) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of providing the vehicle with slides, so that the roof rigid parts can move along said slides, between said extended position and folded position.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of attaching the slides to the retractable roof support body.

16. (New) The vehicle according to claim 1, wherein each of said two fixed, lateral members are fixed onto the vehicle structure.